

# **SCHIZOPHRENIA**

# **ESSAY PACK**

For CIE A-levels Psychology Paper 3 : Clinical Psychology

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1(a) Describe the diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia, including-

- diagnostic criteria, and
- a case study of schizophrenia. [6]

**Ans.**

Schizophrenia is a psychotic disorder involving loss of contact with reality. ICD-11 diagnostic criteria propose that

[REDACTED]

Schizophrenia typically begins in mid-to-late 20s. Therefore, its emergence in childhood is classified as VEOS - very early onset schizophrenia. Aneja et al. investigated a rare

[REDACTED]

**1(b) Evaluate the diagnostic criteria of schizophrenia, including-**

- **diagnostic criteria, and**
- **a case study of schizophrenia**

**including a discussion about idiographic versus nomothetic approach.**

**Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]**

**Ans.**

In terms of idiographic versus nomothetic, the ICD-11 adopts a nomothetic approach to diagnosing schizophrenia. The same criteria are used by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. However, nomothetic approaches can miss out on atypical symptoms of some cases. In Aneja et al., taking an idiographic approach, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Another relevant issue is individual and situational explanations. ICD-11 assumes an individual explanation for schizophrenia as it [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. In Aneja et al., [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] indicative of a possible situational explanation. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Lastly, another relevant issue is use of children in research. In general, use of ICD-11 criteria to diagnose children with schizophrenia in research has potential for [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Specifically, for the Aneja et al. study, the use of a child was [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**2(a) Describe the study by Freeman et al. (2003) on virtual reality to investigate persecutory ideation. [6]**

**Ans.**

The aim of Freeman's study was to investigate whether [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. They were first trained to use [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Results showed that in-line with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. This suggested that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**2 (b) Evaluate this study by Freeman et al. (2003), including a discussion of individual and situational explanations. [10]**

**Ans.**

In terms of individual and situational explanations, Freeman's study strongly supports the individual side. Participants' persecutory ideation was

[REDACTED]

In terms of validity, this study had strong internal validity. The researchers used well-established

[REDACTED]

However, ecological validity was poor as

[REDACTED]

Lastly, with regard to generalisability, the study made use of a non-clinical, largely student volunteers from a single university. Students may not represent

[REDACTED]

3(a) Describe the following biological explanations of schizophrenia

- Genetic explanation, and
- Biochemical Explanation. [6]

Ans.

The genetic explanation for schizophrenia emerged from twin studies which showed that

it. Amongst specific candidate genes,

The biochemical explanation mainly attributes the disorder to

. A later revised version

(b) Evaluate the following biological explanations of depression:

- genetic explanation; and
- biochemical explanation.

including a discussion about nature versus nurture.

Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]

Ans.

On the nature versus nurture debate, biological explanations support nature. The genetic explanation at

[REDACTED]

Another relevant debate here is reductionism versus holism. Both explanations are reductionist. The genetic explanation reduces schizophrenia to

[REDACTED]. However, since schizophrenia is multifaceted, some of its symptoms like delusions are better explained by [REDACTED] s.

Finally, individual versus situational explanations are an important consideration here. Both explanations are individualistic. The genetic explanation attributes

[REDACTED]

**4(a) Describe the following treatments of schizophrenia**

- **Biological Treatment, and**
- **Psychological Treatment. [6]**

**Ans.**

Biochemical treatment for schizophrenia mainly involves the use of antipsychotic medication.

[REDACTED]

A key psychological treatment for schizophrenia is cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT). CBT aims to help [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Sensky et al. aimed to compare the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**4(b) Evaluate the following treatments of schizophrenia**

- **Biological Treatment, and**
- **Psychological Treatment**

**including a discussion about idiographic versus nomothetic approaches.**

**Evaluation in your answer can include strengths, weaknesses and a discussion of issues and debates. [10]**

**Ans.**

One relevant issue is idiographic versus nomothetic approaches. Biochemical treatment of schizophrenia follows a largely

[REDACTED]

This individualised approach may explain why CBT continued to show improvement at follow-up, unlike the befriending intervention.

A second relevant issue is generalisations from findings. Drug treatments are widely

[REDACTED]

In Sensky et al., participants were already stabilised on medication and

[REDACTED]

A final issue is ethics. Biochemical treatments raise ethical concerns due to

[REDACTED] CBT is ethically

superior as it is

[REDACTED] In Sensky et al., ethical standards were maintained by [REDACTED]